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For Immediate Release
April 28, 2004

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Sen. Bishop announces passage of bill to help end 14-year-old Tienken Road dispute

LANSING — Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, announced unanimous Senate passage today of his bill to help resolve the long-running Tienken Road controversy over a street barricade that hampers drivers and emergency responders.

Senate Bill 145 would set a process for boards of counties with more than 1 million people to gain jurisdiction over closed roads that serve two communities. The effort stems from the early 1990s when Auburn Hills closed Tienken Road at the city's border with Rochester Hills, causing motorists to drive miles out of their way to circumvent the earthen barrier.

“Residents of Rochester Hills and near-by communities have waited too long already for quick and efficient use of area roads,” Bishop said. “My legislation would create a fair process to evaluate when communities can close roads without harming their neighbors.”

Under the proposed legislation, the community closing a road would have to demonstrate a compelling need to close a road that serves an adjacent community.

The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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